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CARPETS AND RUGS.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.



A BORDER SUGGESTION.

"CARPETS of all grades of American manufacture are equal in quality and superior in style to any similar goods that are imported—what I mean by style is cheerful and graceful designs, brilliant effects and harmonious tones in coloring, and a good, clean finish," said Mr. Willard, manager in the carpet department of E. J. Denning & Co.

Need we halt here to tell our readers that E. J. Denning & Co. are A. T. Stewart's successors, and that the new firm is carrying on the business of the old house?

Standing in their carpet department, one is in a vast room fronting Broadway, Ninth and Tenth Sts., where everything is favorable to the prompt and perfect display of goods.

On this floor are about 600 patterns with borders to match, and no duplicates; thus allowing a customer the benefit of a wise selection—an invaluable thing.

Of these miles and miles of carpeting, every foot was woven in home mills except a few pieces of Axminster, of English manufacture. Positively our manufacturers by painstaking and enterprise, have overcome every obstacle, and can point with a just pride to the trustworthy and beautiful goods they turn out. Fast-dyed, strongly woven and embodying in their designs the spirit of a progressive and tasteful people, our floor coverings are not excelled anywhere in quality or price.

The dull and hackneyed patterns of most foreign carpets are not liked and have very little sale.

Would you buy a carpet? If so, and you are a prudent person, there are many things to consider; where it is to be used and for what purpose, the length of your purse and what purchase will in the end be the best for you.

An extra-super (extra superfine) the best ingrain carpet made, is worth ninety cents a yard. All ingrains are in yard widths, and all other kinds of carpets are one-fourth less in width (twenty-seven inches), so in estimating for a room this matter is considered. There is one little point just here it will be well to remember; although ingrains are one quarter wider than Brussels, the quarter estimate would not apply in fitting a floor; buy one third more yards of Brussels and tapestry than you would of ingrain, and you will be right.

Not very far back, but in the years that have passed, the demand for a three ply carpet was great, but to-day a two ply (extra super) is better and cheaper than a three-ply, and will wear as well as a tapestry Brussels. This is due to the quality of the material, but more especially to close and careful weaving, giving a solid wearing body.

There are two kinds of Brussels: tapestry and body Brussels, and in these goods our manufacturers excel, having by the use of improved machinery, and through the experience of years brought the quality up and the price down. Tapestries are worth from sixty cents to one dollar a yard, and at these figures they are alluring objects, and it is not surprising that great quantities of them are sold.

Body Brussels are what experienced house-keepers depend on, and people who want long service buy them; they cost from \$1.00 to \$1.40 a yard, and are the standard goods in the carpet trade.

Now we come to the strange and agreeable fact, that a velvet carpet can be bought for the same money as a body Brussels.

The difference between a velvet and a Brussels carpet is like the difference between worsted and plush dress goods. The best velvets now sell at \$1.25 and \$1.35 a yard, and this again illustrates the ability and disposition of our manufacturers to meet the people's demand.

A velvet carpet is soft to the touch, displays

all colors to advantage, is pleasant to tread upon, and most agreeable to the eye. The low prices at present prevailing bring them within the reach of most householders.

A moquette carpet worth \$1.60 a yard, only differs from a velvet in having a longer face or pile. It is a soft appearing and pretty covering, but will not wear as well as a velvet or body Brussels. Any one wanting a carpet and who can afford to buy a Wilton at \$2.25 a yard, ought to do so, for everything considered, it is among them all the beautifullest (as Carlyle would say) and the best.

It has the strength and wearing quality of the best body Brussels, and a brilliancy and depth of color not realized in other grades.

The English Axminsters, selling from \$3.00 to \$4.25 a yard, are destined for the hastily constructed palaces of our railroad wrecking and bond-peddling millionaires. They are the most expensive goods in the carpet line, and special patterns are woven to order for our rich citizens.

Borders are used now on all carpets, the design being specially made for each pattern of carpet; the borders are mostly five-eighths yard wide (22½ inches).

The fashionable and prevailing ground color is ecru, but drab and pearl have come to dispute its pre-eminence.

One of the most beautiful patterns we saw had a light-tinted ground displaying drab, blue, and greenish foliage of small size.

Carpets of one color are in blue, crimson, olive, green, red, maroon, and black. They are a specialty, and the prices for them are a little higher than the patterned goods, viz.: ingrain, \$1.00; tapestry, \$1.00; velvets, \$1.50. These carpets are used by artists and artistic people for spreading on hard wood floors, and as a ground for one or more bright rugs.

We were informed that better goods are continually demanded and that the improvement in people's taste and their desire and growing appreciation for quality and beauty, are very marked and encouraging.

Kensington art squares are sold in immense numbers and appear to have taken the popular fancy. They have a decided artistic appearance and they are cheap—two good reasons in their favor. They were first made in England, but were quickly copied here, and now a great number of manufacturers are turning them out.

They are the best quality of ingrain carpet woven in one piece, not more than three yards wide and of any required length; so we have them two and a half by three yards square, etc. They are bought as cheap as eighty and eighty-five cents a square yard, but one of all wool of approved pattern and closely woven will cost one dollar a square yard. The patterns include a border, the colors are effective and it is not strange that they meet with such ready sale.

For use on polished floors, or in place of crumb cloths, there is nothing equal to them considering price.

In the rug department, "Smyrnas from Philadelphia," are attractive. They are made in so many sizes and in such attractive styles that they are constantly before the people; the fact is they are successful beyond precedent.

One, four and a half by seven and a half feet in size, reversible, is retailed for \$10.00, when a genuine Turkish or Persian rug of same size would cost anywhere from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

Messrs. E. J. Denning & Co., in order to meet the demand for cheap rugs, make in their own mills an ingrain rug with an all-round worsted fringe about four by five feet in size which they retail for \$2.50, also an ingrain rug with metallic effect representing gold and silver threads twisted with the yarn at \$5.00 each, size three by six feet. These goods cannot be obtained elsewhere.

Of course in this establishment, in addition to what we have spoken of, were piles and piles of gaudy, rich, and choice Persian and Turkish rugs and carpets, hand made, and selling at prices sometimes almost fabulous, but this is a branch of the business requiring an article of its own.

Popular prices are ruling, and most people buying what they need rather than what they fancy.

HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.

WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY SELL FOR.

ONE way of increasing the sum of human happiness is to educate the people in the means and appliances available for use in the preservation and preparation of food and drink. A proper selection of utensils for the kitchen, the table, the sickroom, and the nursery is a subject

worthy the careful thought of every one who values efficient household management.

It may be held there is little beauty and no sentiment in pots and pans, griddles and broilers, but if they are thus despised it is scoffing at one's own stomach.

The kitchen rules the house, and on the details of the kitchen, laundry, and scullery, rest the order, comfort, and glory of the mansion. In a matter of this kind there is great room for knowledge. No one not well acquainted with the subject has any conception of the multitude of articles, large and small, invented and made by ingenious persons, which are applicable and necessary to our every-day comfort and happiness in sickness, health, or the pursuit of pleasure.

In order to enter this wide and inviting field of information, we sought the house furnishing establishment of Lewis & Conger, Broadway, Sixth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Streets, and obtained from them the following:

First in regard to our national morning beverage—coffee—well, there are coffee pots and coffee pots. How many families have a first-class one and keep it in prime order? All admit it is an indispensable thing.

The Vienna coffee pot is a coffee-making machine intended for table use. It can be bought in copper, brass, or nickel, and consists of a pail-like body with a cover and closed spout. It is balanced on pivots in a frame and swings. Inside are two compartments, the lower one being filled with water, ground coffee is put between two strainers, which are clamped and fastened to a hollow tube in the center of the pot. Free alcohol being placed under the kettle, steam is forced up the tube and through the coffee into a receptacle. While this process is going on a glass cover is used, and when the operator notices air bubbles appearing, the coffee is ready for use and the lamp extinguished.

This pot makes black or after-dinner coffee, and is as near perfect as can be had. Price, \$5.00.

The "Eureka" coffee pot is well known in New York and vicinity, as it is made in the city and has been largely introduced. One-quart size for family use sells for \$1.50.

Alcohol lamps are considered almost a necessity, being used in city apartments, in the nursery, in camping out, and by canoeists and hunters. The best comes from France and is known as the triple forced-flame lamp. The flame is made up of three round wicks fitting inside one another, and each separated from the other by a cylinder; therefore we have the force of three flames giving heat sufficient to boil a quart of water in five minutes. It comes in tin, polished brass, and copper, price of the cheapest, \$1.50; a two flame lamp constructed on the same principle can be had for \$1.05.

Swinging kettles of brass, copper, or bronze, with alcohol lamp attachment for making tea in the dining-room or library, boiling water, etc., are quite the thing. They are very ornamental table objects, many being artistically decorated with repoussé work. They come from Germany and range in price, according to size and quality, from \$6.75 to \$15.00. A fruit knife holder, also from Germany, is a late importation. A hollow cylinder of antique finished brass contains a dozen knives; one being removed a concealed spring brings another within sight; \$10.00.

Let us look at trays. Although so well known, there is an improvement in them worthy of attention. New and handsomely decorated ones are now imported from Paris; the papier maché of which they are made furnishes a seamless article—not made of two or more pieces, as Oriental lacquer ware. They are ornamented after Japanese and Chinese methods, have become justly popular and cost from 30 cents to \$8.00.

Brass toilet pitchers from Paris in the shape of a can (ugly, but fashionable,) have just been imported; \$3.00. The best thing for opening cans and sardine boxes—which bother so many people—is a little instrument working exactly like scissors; on one end is a knife to make the starting cut, and then with a saw-like edge the rest is mere play; \$1.00.

Any householder with a penchant for novelty and service combined, can, for \$5.00, buy an electric gas lighter. In the handle is a battery sufficient to ignite 50,000 burners.

A hot plate is such an excellent thing that it is not strange there are many inventions to make the heating more convenient. One kind receives the ware and is placed over the register in the floor, \$6.00; another covers the register in the wall, \$5.00, and a third kind stands in front of the fire, \$5.00. A larger warmer, holding four dozen plates, is heated by a bar of compressed charcoal which is slipped into a receptacle at the bottom; it takes up a space one foot wide and two and a half feet high and sells at \$15.00.